

Partnerships for Results Track

Partnerships for Solving Problems Workshop

Engaging and Leveraging Partnerships to Improve Indoor Air Quality

There is solid science that indoor radon is the second leading cause of lung cancer and that other types indoor air pollution also pose a significant public health risk. However, there is no federal legislation requiring good indoor air quality in homes and buildings. Therefore, reducing these health risks requires a new model for encouraging risk reduction. Millions of self-initiated actions by the public, building owners and managers, are needed to help reduce the risks of poor indoor air quality. Effective government programs to reduce these risks must emphasize communication and outreach to catalyze and influence actions by the millions of individuals who make decisions that affect their indoor environments. The experience of EPA's Radon Program provides a compelling case for understanding how a small staff leveraged its resources and built a nationwide network of partners dedicated to improving indoor air quality. The presentation describes EPA's initiatives for engaging partners and communicating risks and results from a network of partnerships.

CONTACT:

Kristy Miller
USEPA
1200 Pennsylvania Ave, NW
Washington, DC 20460
202-564-9441
miller.kristy@epa.gov

Partnerships for Results Track

Partnerships for Solving Problems Workshop

Businesses for the Bay

Businesses for the Bay is the Chesapeake Bay Program's voluntary pollution prevention program for businesses, government facilities, and other organizations within the Bay watershed. The Chesapeake Bay Program is the unique regional partnership that's been directing and conducting the restoration of the Chesapeake Bay since the signing of the historic 1983 Chesapeake Bay Agreement. The Chesapeake Bay Program partners include the states of Maryland, Pennsylvania and Virginia; the District of Columbia; the Chesapeake Bay Commission, a tri-state legislative body; the Environmental Protection Agency; and participating environmental and community groups. The overriding philosophy of the Bay Program is to use grassroots, voluntary efforts to effectuate change rather than additional regulation and legal action.

Businesses for the Bay is the Bay Program's voluntary effort to partner with business and industry to focus on minimizing the impacts of businesses in the Chesapeake Bay watershed through voluntary pollution prevention (P2), assistance, and recognition. Since the program began in 1996, more than **280 facilities** have committed to preventing pollution by joining *Businesses for the Bay*. In addition, **90 individuals** from those participating facilities have volunteered to serve as business-to-business Mentors, providing their technical assistance. *Businesses for the Bay* also has a group of Partners, which are organizations that help to promote pollution prevention to their members.

Making Great Progress

Participants in Businesses for the Bay make voluntary commitments to reduce their generation of wastes through various measures. Each year, *Businesses for the Bay* participants report on the progress they make in preventing pollution. Participants reporting this year will be helping to achieve the Bay Program's Toxics 2000 Strategy's Commitment for members to "prevent at the source or recycle a total of one billion pounds of hazardous substances between 1999 and 2005". Participants reporting this year said that they reduced or recycled almost **773 million pounds of wastes in 1999**. These wastes range from specific chemicals to air emissions to solid waste. Several facilities also volunteered to report their cost savings. As a result of their efforts, more than **\$4.8 million was saved**, up from \$3.9 million from last year. In addition many facilities reported they trained employees on P2 techniques. In 1999, 9000 employees in the Bay watershed were trained. In addition, some companies took advantage of P2 opportunity assessments. Still others spent time conserving or restoring habitats on their property or in their community.

Businesses Report Chemical Releases

Another indicator of the progress businesses are making in reducing their releases of chemicals to the Bay watershed is the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's national Toxic Release Inventory or TRI. According to the most recent inventory, facilities that report to the TRI cut their releases by 67% between 1988 and 1998. The trend over the past years remains steady. However, Businesses are committing to further reductions in the Toxics 2000 Strategy, which will be finalized this fall.

Recognizing Nutrient Pollution Prevention Activities

Businesses for the Bay was developed by the Bay Program's "Toxics Subcommittee", and has historically focused on toxics reductions for its awards and major recognition functions. However, P2 techniques can be utilized for the reduction of all types of wastes, including nutrients, which are a major issue in the long-term restoration of the Bay. Therefore, *Business for the Bay* is broadening its focus to include the consideration of nutrients; and starting in 2001, its excellence awards will be expanded to include a category for small, medium, and large business who excel in pollution prevention for nutrients (i.e. nitrogen and phosphorus).

Mentoring Assistance Made Easy

Straight from cyberland, this web site will feature a searchable database for *Business for the Bay* members and others interested in contacting mentors for their specific area of expertise. This web site will link mentors by email and will make reporting "Mentoring Events" process more streamline. The Toxics 2000 Strategy commits to have a total of 300 mentors by 2005 who conduct 500 interactions annually with members in need of assistance.

For more information, contact April Marcy, the Businesses for the Bay Coordinator at 410-267-5719 or at Marcy.April@epamail.epa.gov. Virginia's Businesses for the Bay Coordinator is Tom Griffin at 804-698-4545 and rtgriffin@deq.state.va.us.